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Diana T Fritz 02/06/2007 05:35:02 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

June 22, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2044 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: PGOV, KDEM  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT POSSIBLY BY 2004- 05 WOMEN AT  
THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02044

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: CDA  
INFO: PAO POL ECON  
Laser1:  
INFO: PAO

DISSEMINATION: CDA  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA:RALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: POL:RBASSIL  
CLEARED: POL:JFMAYBURY

VZCZCADI501  
RR RUEHC RUCNDT RUEHZM  
DE RUEHAD #2044 1741153  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 221153Z JUN 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4807  
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1193  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 002044

SIPDIS

STATE FOR DRL, NEA/PI, AND NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KWMN](#) [KDEM](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: UAE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT POSSIBLY BY 2004-  
05 WOMEN AT THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL

REF: ABU DHABI 2034

¶1. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UAE GENERAL WOMEN'S  
UNION, NOURA AL-SUWEIDI, TOLD POLCHIEF ON JUNE 21 THAT  
WOMEN COULD BE APPOINTED TO THE 40-MEMBER FEDERAL  
NATIONAL COUNCIL (FNC) DURING THE 2004-05 SESSION THAT  
BEGINS IN THE FALL. AL-SUWEIDI MENTIONED THAT A LIST OF  
WOMEN NOMINATED BY RULERS OF EACH EMIRATE HAS BEEN  
COMPILED AND SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT SHAYKH ZAYED, WHO  
WILL REVIEW AND APPROVE THE NAMES. "WE WILL HAVE WOMEN  
IN THE PARLIAMENT IN THE NEXT SESSION, GOD WILLING," SHE  
SAID.

¶2. IN RECENT YEARS, SHAYKH ZAYED'S WIFE, SHAYKHA FATIMA, HAS CALLED PUBLICLY FOR THE RULERS OF EACH OF THE SEVEN EMIRATES AND THE FNC TO INCLUDE UAE WOMEN IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, INCLUDING APPOINTING THEM TO THE FNC. NOURA AL-SUWEIDI HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE FNC LEADERSHIP TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF OPENING UP THE PARLIAMENT MEMBERSHIP TO WOMEN. OUR FNC CONTACTS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THESE MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AND HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL, BUT THEY DID NOT SAY THAT THERE WAS A SPECIFIC TIMEFRAME WHEN THEY EXPECTED WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED.

¶3. THE DISCUSSION WITH AL-SUWEIDI ALSO COVERED THE RECENTLY RELEASED TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT (SEE REFTTEL), AL-SUWEIDI'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MEPI "CAMPAIGN SCHOOL" IN DOHA LAST SPRING, AND A PLANNED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE THAT THE GWU WILL SPONSOR. AL-SUWEIDI AND HER STAFF GAVE POLCHIEF, EMBASSY POLITICAL ASSISTANT, AND THE SECTION'S SUMMER INTERN, A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR OF THE GWU, THE PRE-EMINENT WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION IN THE UAE.

¶1. SUMMARY: POLITICAL CHIEF AND STAFF VISITED THE UAE GENERAL WOMEN'S UNION YESTERDAY MONDAY JUNE 21, AND MET WITH THE UNION'S DIRECTOR GENERAL NOURA AL SUWEIDI TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ISSUES RELATING TO WOMEN'S ROLE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE UAE. END SUMMARY.

¶2. POLITICAL CHIEF DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF WOMEN'S ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING, AND INQUIRED ABOUT WOMEN'S FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL (FNC), THE UAE PARLIAMENT. AL SUWEIDI MENTIONED THAT A LIST OF WOMEN NOMINATED BY RULERS OF EACH EMIRATE HAS BEEN COMPILED AND SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED, WHO WILL REVIEW AND APPROVE THE NAMES. SHE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD SEE "INSHALLAH" WOMEN MEMBERS AT THE NEXT FNC SESSION.

ALBRIGHT